Tuesday Imp lunches are generally a time of light-hearted talk over nectar and ambrosia. Last week, talk turned tough as the Imps, in their monthly union meeting took a strike vote against Infocom. Union rep Steve Mereetzky read a prepared statement to the press explaining the Imps Union disgruntlement with management over such issues as free agency, overtime, benefits, and bagels.

The striking Imps set up picket lines outside 125 CambridgePark Drive carrying signs proclaiming "Info Unfair!" and "More Bagels, More Freedom!" Picket lines by sympathetic Teamsters were set up in Cresskill, NJ, Mountain View, CA, Menlo Park, CA, and Upper Sandusky, OH (just for the hell of it). Back in Cambridge, Infocom's Micro Systems Group and Testing Department refused to cross the picket line in a show of solidarity with the Imps.

Chris Reeve, InfoVice Pres of Development explained that management has been trying to get the Imps to the bargaining table for months, but they refused to come. Dave Lebling, an Imp Union leader, hearing this, exclaimed, "He's full of grueshit. Trying to talk with management is like a bad wizard trying to nitfol. It just doesn't happen. They've been stubborn for months and haven't once even approached anything vaguely resembling a bargaining table."

Mike Dornbrook, InfoMarketing Director, the most vocal of management explained later that Beyond Zork, Border Zone, Sherlock, Infocomics, and a host of other games are in danger. But management has a plan should the Imps stage a long strike.

"Bring on the NURDs!" shouted Gabrielle Accardi, InfoSales Development Manager. NURDs are Non Union Replacement Designers that management plans to employ on a per game basis if the Imps stay on strike. Management plans to bring in the NURDs through the steam tunnels from 150 CambridgePark Drive,, thereby avoiding a possible confrontation with the Imps. Plans are also set to release "replacement games" for those that are endangered by the strike.

"Beyond Bork" would be the tale of a misguided judge, written by Robert Bork, who was a tester at Infocom, but when he couldn't get a job as an Imp, quit and went on to Yale Law School. "Sort of Groan" is a game about East-West Summit meeting in the late 1980's that will be written by Frank Blank, a distant cousin of Marc Blank, the designer of "Border Zone." Unconfirmed rumors also exist that InfoManagement has contacted Michael Bywater as a potential NURD.

In a flagrant violation of company policy and good taste, the Imps have booby-trapped the 20 with all sorts of witty sayings to disrupt the flow of replacement games, but thus far there has been no violence.